



State of Wisconsin  
**Department of Health and Family Services**

Jim Doyle, Governor  
Helene Nelson, Secretary

**Retired Senior Volunteer Program**

Change to Base	FY 04		FY 05	
	GPR	All Funds	GPR	All Funds
RSVP Funding	(\$502,600)	(\$502,600)	(\$502,600)	(\$502,600)

**Description of Proposal**

- Eliminate the GPR funding (\$502,600/year) for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

**Background**

- The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) enlists elderly individuals to volunteer in a variety of settings including schools, libraries, and the residences of homebound individuals.
- The federal Corporation for National and Community Services provides \$1,065,100 FED per year to local RSVP programs in Wisconsin. This federal funding goes directly to 17 vendor sites serving 29 counties and funds a full time director to administer the program in the state.
- The federal funds are used to reimburse volunteers for travel costs regardless of the volunteer's income level and to pay for the state RSVP director and local director positions.
- The state provides a GPR supplement of \$502,600 per year. The federal government does not require this state supplement. The state supplement is used primarily for paid staff and for volunteer and program expenses at the vendor sites.

**Rationale for Proposal**

- In the absence of the state GPR funding, the RSVP sites will need to consider options such as converting vendor site staff back to volunteer positions, reducing training and placement support to volunteers, and/or placing limits on volunteer travel reimbursements. The GPR reduction should not result in a reduction in volunteer activities since most if not all volunteers are motivated by the desire to help individuals and families in need and not by the amount of reimbursement for travel expenses.
- The GPR supplement is not required and can be eliminated without adversely affecting federal funding for this program. RSVP projects also do significant local fundraising and often receive private charitable contributions.